Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An ~~agent~~ method for improving the blood stability of an ~~mammalian~~ endogenous ligand in a mammal, which comprises administering to the mammal an effective amount of an antibody that has an affinity to the endogenous ligand but does not neutralize the same substantially.

2. (currently amended) The ~~agent~~ method of claim 1, wherein the improved blood stability of the endogenous ligand results in the enhancement of receptor activity-regulatory action thereof.

3. (currently amended) The ~~agent~~ method of claim 1, wherein the neutralizing activity of the antibody is about 80% or less.

4. (currently amended) The ~~agent~~ method of claim 1, wherein the blood concentration of the endogenous ligand becomes about twice or more compared to the case where the antibody is not administered.

5. (currently amended) The ~~agent~~ method of claim 1, wherein the blood half-life of the complex of the endogenous ligand and the antibody is about twice or more as that of the endogenous ligand alone.

6. (currently amended) The ~~agent~~ method of claim 1, wherein the blood half-life of the free endogenous ligand is about one week or less.

7. (currently amended) The ~~agent~~ method of claim 1, wherein the endogenous ligand is a

peptidic compound.

8. (currently amended) The ~~agent~~ method of claim 7, wherein the endogenous ligand is one against a G protein-coupled receptor.

9. (currently amended) The ~~agent~~ method of claim 8, wherein the endogenous ligand is one belonging to secretin/glucagon super family.

10. (currently amended) The ~~agent~~ method of claim 9, wherein the endogenous ligand is selected from the group consisting of GLP-1, calcitonin, PACAP, VIP and analogs thereof.

11. (currently amended) The ~~agent~~ method of claim 8, wherein the endogenous ligand is selected from the group consisting of LHRH, metastin, GPR7/GPR8 ligand, MSH, ghrelin, apelin and analogs thereof.

12. (currently amended) The ~~agent~~ method of claim 7, wherein the endogenous ligand is selected from the group consisting of EPO, TPO, insulin, interferon, growth hormone, GM-CSF, leptin, adiponectin and analogs thereof.

13. (currently amended) The ~~agent~~ method of claim 7, wherein the endogenous ligand is selected from the group consisting of ANP, BNP, CNP, betacellulin, betacellulin-δ4, adrenomedullin and analogs thereof.

14. (currently amended) The ~~agent~~ method of claim 1, which is for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of a disease in which an increased blood concentration and/or a prolonged blood half-life of the endogenous ligand are/is effective for the prophylaxis and/or treatment thereof.

15. (currently amended) The ~~agent~~ method of claim 14, wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of metabolic disease, bone and joint disease, cardiovascular

disease, cranial nerve disease, infectious disease, cancer, blood disorder, urologic disease, infertility/erectile dysfunction, deficient growth and immunodeficiency.

16. (currently amended) A method for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of a disease in a mammal, wherein an increased blood concentration and/or a prolonged blood half-life of an endogenous ligand are/is effective for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of the disease, which method comprises administering to the mammal an effective amount of an antibody that has an affinity to the endogenous ligand but does not neutralize the same substantially, without administering a compound the same as or substantially the same as the endogenous ligand, so as to increase the blood stability of the endogenous ligand, thereby enhancing a receptor activity-regulatory action ~~of the ligand~~.

17. (canceled) A use of an antibody that has an affinity for an endogenous ligand but does not neutralize the same substantially for the manufacture of an agent for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of a disease in which an increased blood concentration and/or a prolonged blood half-life of the endogenous ligand are/is effective for the prophylaxis and/or treatment thereof.